

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
Understanding his plays

TRAGEDY

a drama that ends in
catastrophe-most often
death-for the main
characters

COMIC RELIEF

a humorous scene
or speech intended
to lighten the mood

CHARACTER TYPES

- Protagonist
- the central character
- Antagonist
- the force working against the protagonist
- Foil
- a character who is the opposite of another character

ELEMENTS OF SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS

- Soliloquy
- a speech given by a character alone on stage
- Aside
- a characters remarks that other characters on stage do not hear